The Ballarat Naturalist

Volume 22 No.7

August 2022

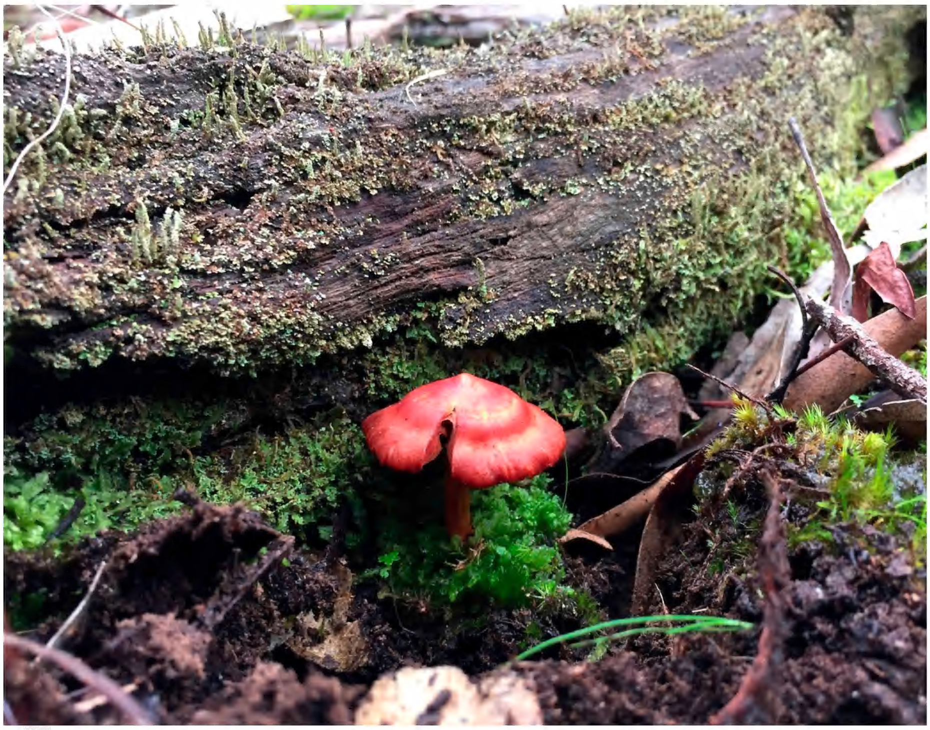
July Excursion to Pittong and Happy Valley

I volunteered to write this report because I thought it would be short. It was supposed to be just an afternoon excursion but, with Emily as leader, it turned out to be a full-day one confined to the afternoon. Twelve members braved the cold but fine weather.

Mt Yirip State Forest

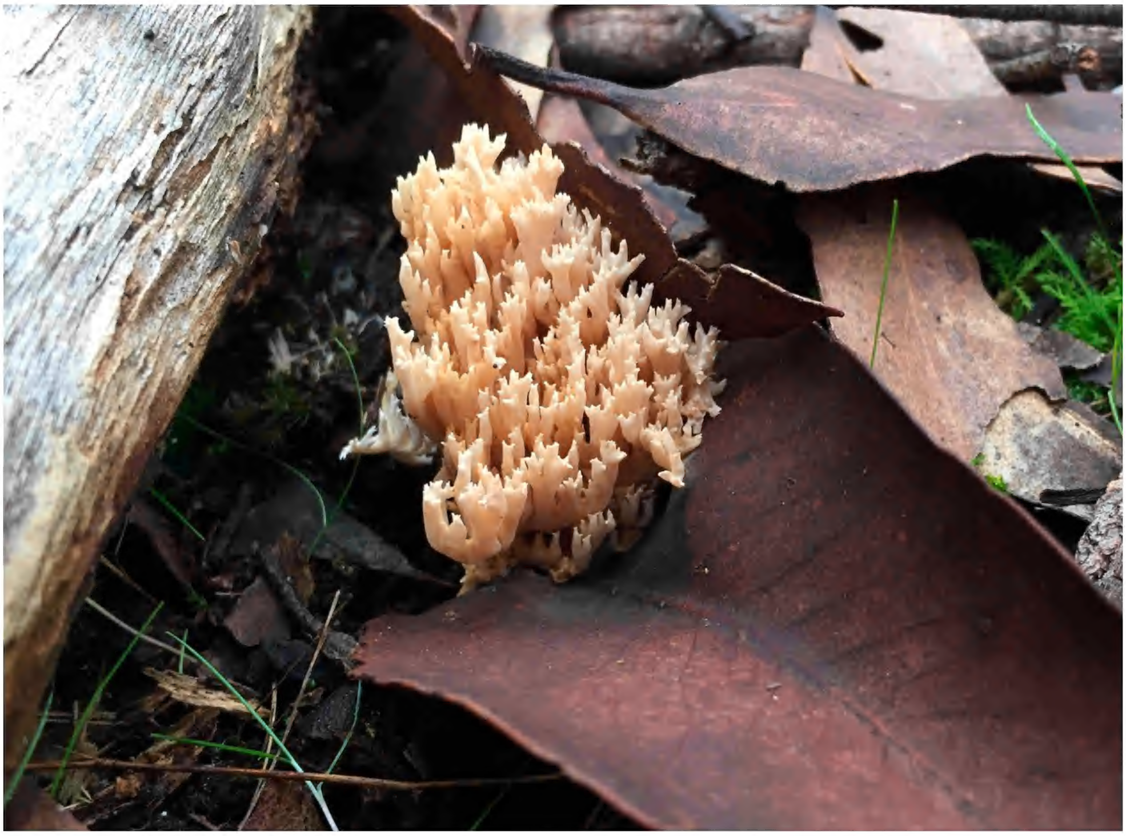
From the Linton Hotel we travelled along the Linton-Piggoreet Rd until we turned onto the Happy Valley Crossing Rd. This took us to a parking spot in the Mt Yirip State Forest (not to be confused with Mt Erip State Forest). Emily came across this site whilst trying to locate a colony of locally uncommon Striated Greenhoods from which Bon Strange, one of our club's earliest members, collected a specimen in 1963 that now resides in the National Herbarium of Victoria. The record is viewable online in Australia's Virtual Herbarium.

The Forest was dominated by Red Ironbark with a mid-storey of Golden Wattle and sparse understorey with wonderful moss and lichen cover. DELWP's ecological vegetation class models map the area as Heathy Dry Forest but we only found one Heath specimen. Emily suggested it would more aptly be classified as a Grassy Dry Forest.



Cortinarius kula, Mt Kirip State Forest (E. Noble)

The area we traversed was very rough with low mullock heaps and many depressions and shafts from gold-mining days. One shaft, for which we tested the depth by throwing a stone down it, appeared very deep as it took a couple of seconds to hear the sound of the stone hitting the bottom. The mining appeared to have removed all the topsoil.



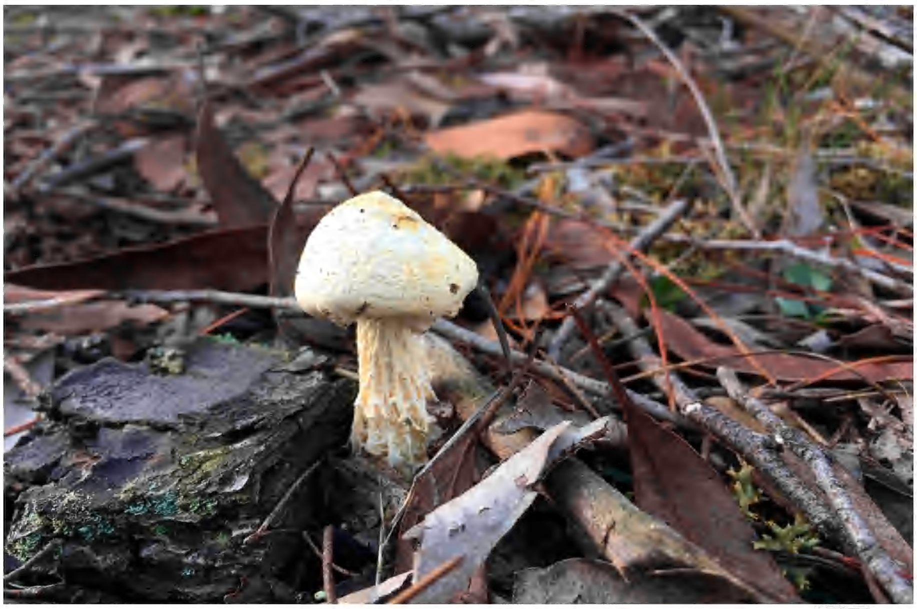
Coral Fungi, Mt Kirip State Forest (E. Noble)

The moss species included Pine Moss *Polytrichum juniperinum* and the lichens included Pixie Cup *Cladonia pyxidata*, the Mealy-forked *Cladonia scabriuscula* and Fuzzy Reindeer Lichen *Cladonia confusa*. We also saw Yellow Belly-buttons *Lichenomphalia chromacea* and Green Pea Mushrooms *Lichenomphalia umbellifera*, which belong to the group of fungi called Basidiolichens relying on symbiotic associations with algae.

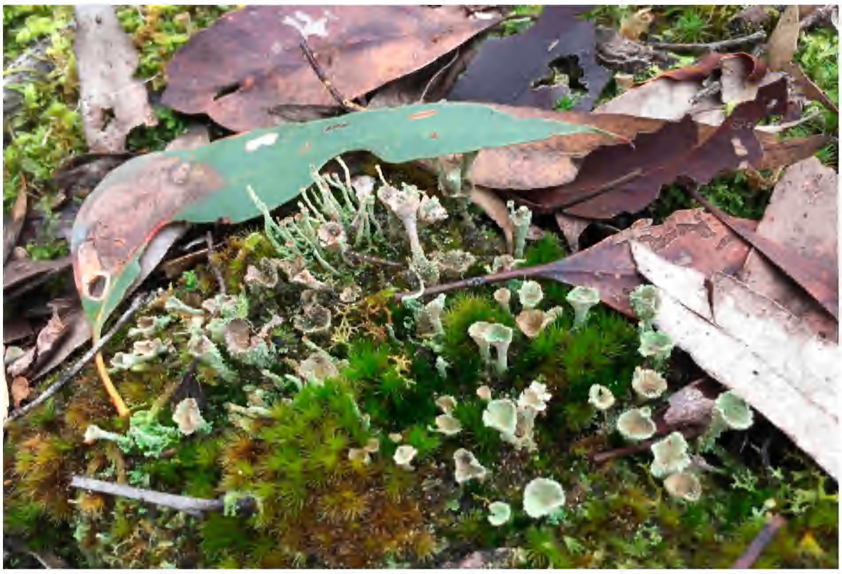
Among this growth we did find some fungi and plants, with Emily in her usual way naming them by recognising their leaves. (All are listed in the tables on pp 7 & 8) The flowers that we did see covering the ground were of the blossoms from the Ironbarks, probably nipped-off by Rosellas.

The Wedge-tailed Eagle we saw on the way to the forest appeared again circling overhead for some time. Other birds seen or heard in the area included White-throated Treecreeper, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Grey Shrike-thrush, Red Wattlebird and a Kookaburra.

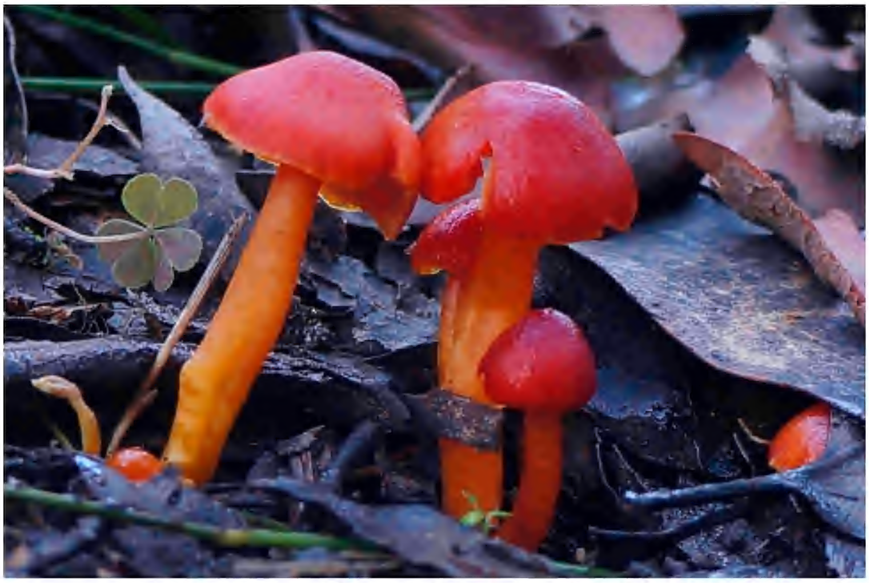
Fungi of Flagstaff Hill Reserve



Austroboletus niveus- Snowy Bolete (E. Noble)



Pixie Cups (E. Noble)



Hygrocybe sp. (L. Hanrahan)

Flagstaff Hill Reserve

Next, we back-tracked to the Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary where we enjoyed a cuppa in the lee of the Environment Centre. Then west via Linton to the crown land Flagstaff Hill Reserve, which is 48 ha of endangered Granitic Sands Grassy Woodland well-managed by the Ballarat Environment Network (BEN). At the entrance, a large interpretative sign describes the function of BEN and outlines much useful information about the Reserve itself.

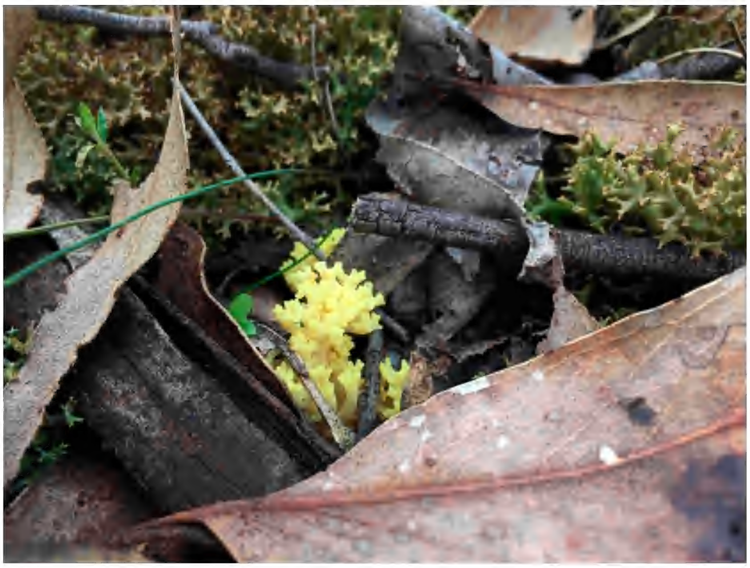
As the track into the area was badly eroded, we took a long walk along it with a detour to the left to see some notable specimens. The distant views were worth a pause to note the mountains in the distance, including Mt Cole.

The landscape in the immediate area has been mined for granitic sand, exposing many large granite rocks and boulders, amongst which we spotted clumps of the coral lichen *Pulchrocladia retipora*. Where the local herbivores allowed the grass to grow, we could describe the area as grassy woodland with its open structure and moss and lichen-covered granite outcrops.

Here again, the plants and fungi we saw are listed in the tables on pp.7 & 8. This list is only a fraction of the list of 150 plants BEN have recorded. Emily showed us a small gully and wet soak on the hillside in which she found an abundance of Fairy's Aprons last Spring. The only plant we saw flowering was the Cranberry Heath. For the others, we saw leaves with the promise of flowers in Spring, but the fungi gave us some bright colours. We were a little late to see the Blue-tongue Lizard as all we saw was its skull!

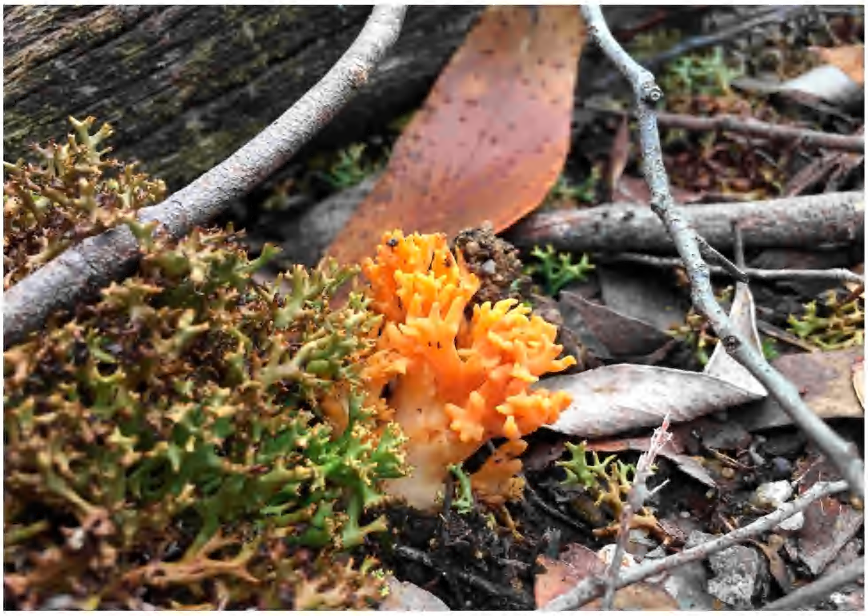
Blue-tongue Lizard skull, Flagstaff Hill Reserve (E. Noble)

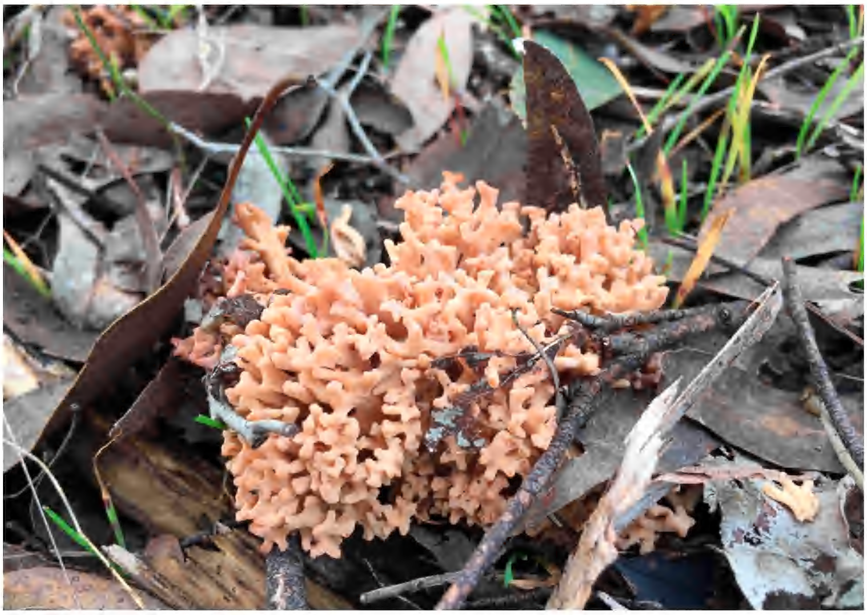
More Fungi of Flagstaff Hill Reserve



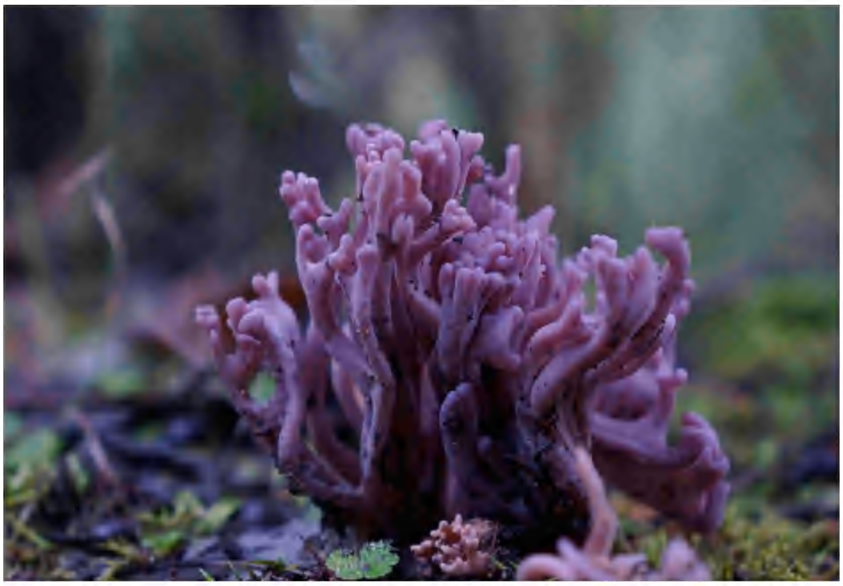
Yellow Coral Fungi
(E. Noble)

Orange Coral
Fungi, (E. Noble)

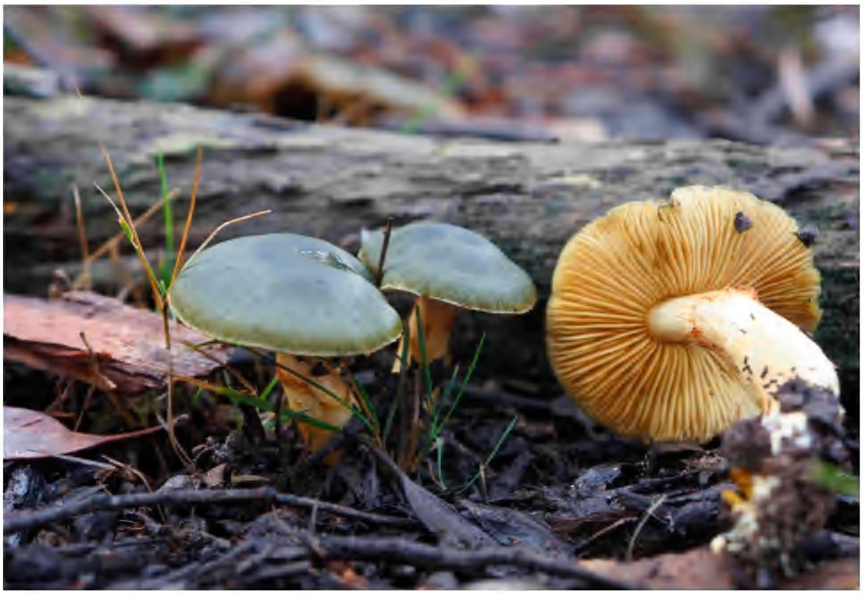




Pinkish Coral Fungi (E. Noble)



Purple Coral Fungi,
Clavulinopsis zollingeri
Flagstaff Hill Reserve
(L. Hanrahan)



Green Skinhead
Cortinarius austrovenetus
Flagstaff Hill Reserve
(L. Hanrahan)

When we got back into our cars Emily directed us along the road to another stop where with headlamps and torches (only joking, but it was getting dark) we were shown a special fungi and most of us were lucky to see a wallaby. The special bolete that Emily showed was *Austroboletus niveus.* The immature specimen had a white conical cap about 40mm across, white tatters at the rim. The pore surface was pink. The stem surface consists of ridges and pits and has been called 'lacunose'.

From what Emily described during the day she must have spent many hours planning this excursion. It is amazing how Emily still takes us to sites where we have never been before.

Fran Hanrahan with ID/photos from Les Hanrahan and Emily Noble

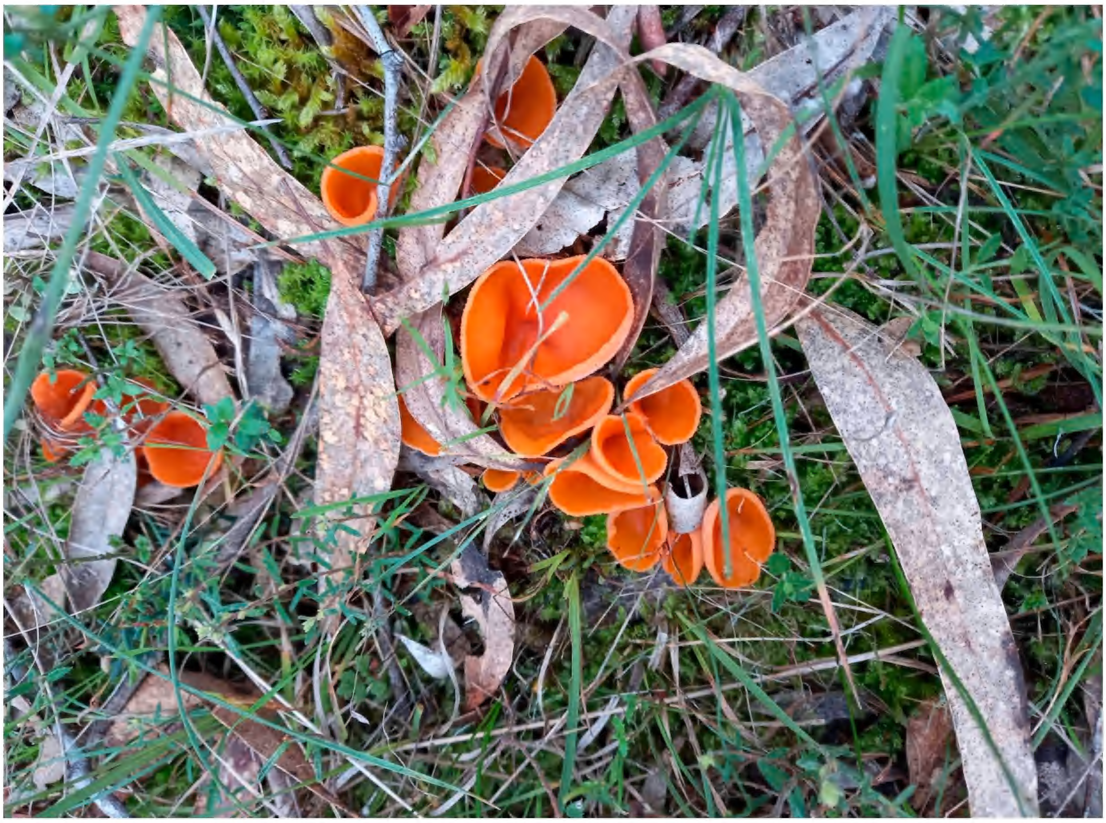
Flagstaff Hill Reserve
Granitic Sands Grassy Woodland flora list

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Acacia genistifolia	Spreading Wattle
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Allocasuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak
Astroloma humifusum	Cranberry Heath
*Brunonia australis **leaves***	Blue Pincushion
*Chamaescilla corymbose **leaves***	Blue Squill
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	Rock-fern
Drosera aberrans	Scented Sundew
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box
Eucalyptus obliqua	Messmate
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. cygnetensis	Rough-barked Manna Gum?
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. viminalis	Manna Gum
*Glossodia major **leaves***	Wax-lip Orchid
*Stackhousia monogyna **leaves***	Creamy Candles
*Stylidium armeria **leaves***	Common Trigger Plant
*Thelymitra juncifolia **leaves***	Rush-leaf Sun-orchid?
*Thelymitra pauciflora **leaves***	Slender Sun-orchid?
*Thelymitra rubra **leaves***	Salmon Sun-orchid?
?	Pink Purslane
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle
E. baxteri	Brown Stringybark

Errata - July edition

Page 9 featured a photograph of the Yellow Waxcap at the bottom of the page which should have been labelled as *Gliophorus chromolimoneus*.

List of Fungi found on excursion, Sunday 3rd July 2022	
Mt Yirip State forest	
Oudemansiella gigaspora	Rooting Shank
Russula sp.	
Laetiporus pelliculosa	Furry Punk
Coltricia australica	Fairy’s Stool
Lepiota species	
Agaricus sp.	A Wood Agaric
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur Tuft
Phlebopus marginatus	Giant Bolete
Cortinarius kula	
Cortinarius sinapicolor	Slimy Yellow Cortinar
Mycena sp.	
Flagstaff Hill Reserve	
Tricholoma sp.	
Rickenella fibula	Orange Moss Cap
Cortinarius sp.	
Aleuria rhenana	Stalked Orange Peel Fungus
Pisolithus tinctorius	Horse-dropping Fungus
Amanita sp.	
Enteloma fibropileatum	
Austroboletus niveus	



Aleuria rhenana Stalked Orange Peel Fungus (K. Elder)

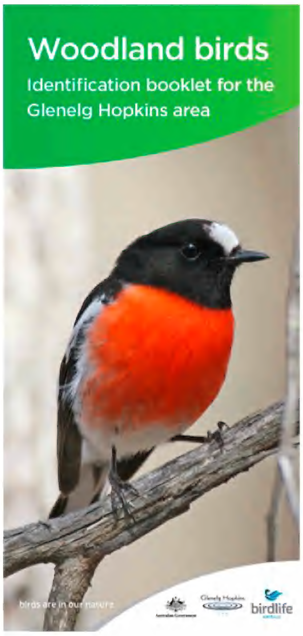
Projects of BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds Team.

Presentation Report by Emily Noble

Chris Timewell, the Acting Woodland Bird Program Leader and Birds on Farms Program Manager gave us a wonderful insight into the many and varied projects of BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds Team, their objectives, rationales, implementation strategies, partners, monitoring and evaluation.

Chris joined the Royal Australasian Ornithological Union (RAOU) and the Bird Observers Club of Australia (BOCA) in the late 1990s and has been a member of the Castlemaine Field Naturalists' Club since 2008. He started by giving us some background information about BirdLife Australia, which formed in 2012 through the merger of BOCA and Birds Australia (a re-branded RAOU, a group that had existed for over 100 years), to provide a stronger voice for birds.

BirdLife Australia is a not-for-profit charity and the largest national organisation devoted to the conservation of Australia's birds, defining its main aim as "the creation of a bright future for birds". BirdLife's work centres around research, on-ground action, education and advocacy around bird conservation issues in collaboration with a lot of other organisations and thousands of volunteers. The organisation has over 90 staff across Australia, many of whom are employed in the Conservation & Science or Research departments.



Woodland birds

Identification booklet for the Glenelg Hopkins area

birds are in our nature

This booklet is funded by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) through Australian Government funding.

Prepared by: Caroline Wilson, Dean Ingwersen, John Peter, Adam Bester and Rob Drummond

Design and Layout: Leeann Reaney and Kieran McDonald

Photo Credits: Dean Ingwersen, Chris Tzaros Andrew Silcocks and Rob Drummond

Further Information

Birdlife Australia
Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3052
T 03 9347 0757 | **E** info@birdlife.org.au
www.birdlife.org.au

Glenelg Hopkins CMA
T 03 5571 2526 | **E** ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

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BirdLife Australia's main programs are broken into broad ecological areas, including coastal birds, wetland birds, urban birds, monitoring (e.g. Birdata), preventing extinctions, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and woodland birds. The Woodland Birds Team has programs aimed at improving conservation outcomes for South-east Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, Regent Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots, Birds on Farms, Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary, Western Australia's woodland birds, and birds of bushfire-affected areas in East Gippsland.

Over one third of Australia's land-based birds are woodland-dependent, with 250-300 species of birds using temperate woodlands for some part of their life-cycle. Up to one-in-four birds in the Temperate Woodland Bird Community are threatened or declining, which isn't surprising given that 80% of Australia's temperate woodlands have been cleared, there is less than 5% of the original cover left in some parts of southern Australia and much of what remains is highly modified and fragmented. A map that illustrated the original extent compared to the current extent of temperate woodlands was sobering indeed.

"Birds on Farms" participating landholder assisted by volunteer birdwatcher (Photo: Jan Osmotherley)

The original extent of temperate woodlands was largely determined by climatic conditions, underlying geological characteristics and soil type. Woodlands are typically characterised by open understorey, a sparse ground layer and widely spaced trees (usually Eucalypts) generally less than 30m tall whose crowns don't overlap.

In response to the urgent need to strategically address the pervasive threats facing temperate woodland birds, BirdLife Australia (in collaboration with many other stakeholders) developed the Temperate Woodland Birds Conservation Action Plan or CAP using an internationally accepted template and assessment process. Released in late 2020, this comprehensive conservation plan guides much of the work of BirdLife's Woodland Birds Team. It also fosters partnerships to adopt complementary approaches that play to the relative strengths of collaborators. The CAP identifies 53 priority threatened or declining woodland birds. To make conservation planning and implementation more manageable, they are broken down into ten target groups based on things like common threats, feeding preferences and nest requirements. Each group has a flagship species and various represented species. In some cases, a species-specific approach is taken (e.g. Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot), whilst in other cases a place-based approach is used. The threats often overlap multiple categories, so that actions undertaken to mitigate threats for a particular species also benefit others.

To illustrate some approaches used in the projects of the Woodland Birds Team, Chris took us through several case studies. He began with the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Project which aims to arrest and reverse the decline of these critically-endangered birds whose populations are in a perilous state with no more than an estimated 300 wild birds remaining. The project includes captive-bred bird releases to boost natural populations, extensive monitoring and satellite tracking to address knowledge gaps and inform actions, Noisy Miner control studies, education, engagement, advocacy and campaigning.

Regent Honeyeaters on Dodonaea
Photo: Dean Ingwersen

Another project is "Long-flowered Mistletoe restoration in the Tomalpin Woodlands" on Wonnarua Country in partnership with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC). It aims to restore critical Regent Honeyeater habitat resources in traditional lands ravaged by wildfires in NSW's Hunter Valley. Long-flowered Mistletoe *Dendrophthoe vitellina* has multiple roles that are key to the health of the woodland ecosystem. It is a crucial food plant for the honeyeaters and countless other species, with its nectar being a rich energy source. The plants are also a prime nesting site for Regent Honeyeaters.

Intense bushfires, exacerbated by climate change over recent years, have killed 90% of the mistletoe in the Tomalpin Woodlands, one of four key breeding sites for the birds in NSW. With Mistletoe unable to regenerate after fire, the bushfires have had a profound impact on the availability of this essential resource. Instead of waiting for the natural re-introduction of mistletoe seeds into the Woodland by Mistletoebirds and Painted Honeyeaters, which can take decades, BirdLife and MLALC are expediting the process by recruiting skilled arborists to collect seeds in nearby unburnt woodlands and re-introduce them to the regenerating woodlands. It is hoped that this innovative restoration project will supercharge the native woodland ecosystem and once again attract Regent Honeyeaters to the site for foraging and breeding. Over 1000 plants have been seeded on the underside of branches in the area already. Whilst about 90% germinate, only about 10% are surviving to maturity. Monitoring and evaluation of the results is providing key information to improve the success rate in the future.

The Swift Parrot Recovery Project aims to ensure the survival of these critically endangered hollow-dependent parrots that are heavily reliant on large, mature or senescent trees. Current population trajectories predict that they could be extinct as soon as 2031, with the population crashing from approximately 2000 wild birds in 2011 to 750 birds in 2020.
Biannual monitoring of these migratory birds during their over-wintering period on mainland Australia has been undertaken by volunteers for 25 years, making it one of the longest continuous survey programs in Australia. It has provided invaluable data on shifts in habitat use, movement patterns and population trends. In 2021, BirdLife Australia launched a revised approach to monitoring to address further knowledge gaps and standardise data collection.
Approximately 2000 permanent monitoring sites have already been established, with another 1000 sites to be set-up if resources allow. The standardised, rapid assessment surveys undertaken by volunteers across a 50m radius area seek to capture data about flowering intensity in trees and mistletoe, presence of lerps, presence/ absence of Swift Parrots, any behavioural observations, other birds present and water availability. A specific program for uploading and collation of the data has been established in the Birdata app and website.

Chris finished with a brief overview of the Birds on Farms project in specific areas of Victoria and NSW. This project seeks to help farmers and other landholders, scientists, bird-lovers and the general public to learn more about birds and their habitats on private rural properties and use this information to improve woodland bird conservation and protection on privately owned land. The monitoring undertaken on participating farms provides vital data about how birds persist on farms. The imperative to undertake this sort of program on private land comes from the scale of species decline seen in recent decades, the opportunity it provides to take a long-term approach, increase engagement and learn from land-holders. Extending the implementation of priority activities to land within the private estate (covering 80% of Vic and NSW) means that actions can be at a scale large enough to reverse bird population declines.

In concluding, Chris noted that the success of BirdLife Australia's efforts were reliant on strong partnerships with other organisations involved in conservation and the contributions of volunteers: its branch members, program participants, friends group members, advocates and citizen scientists. For more information on any of these projects and many more, visit BirdLife's website at www.birdlife.org.au. Our warmest thanks to Chris for an inspiring and enlightening presentation.

Emily Noble

FNCB Fungi Foray Field Trip Wombat Forest
Sunday 19th June 2022
Led by Les Hanrahan
Report and species list compiled by Andy Arnold

A group of keen Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat members gathered at the Gillies St Campus of Federation University on Sunday 19 June, a day that defied the “La Nina” weather pattern we had been experiencing lately in Ballarat. What a delight to have relatively mild and rain free conditions for our excursion into some of the wetter parts of the Wombat Forest. Our search for fungi was led by our own fungi enthusiast Les Hanrahan. Les postponed this event originally scheduled for Sunday 5 June, a wise decision given the appalling weather conditions that that weekend brought.

Our foray started quickly, and we went no further than the carpark garden beds to find our first fungus. We proceeded east out of Ballarat joining the Spargo Creek Road at Springbank entering the Wombat Forest just east of the Daylesford Road. We drove east along the Blakeville Road crossing the headwaters of the Werribee River before reaching our first site beside Cairns Road just north of Rat Track.

Our first walk covered a section of the Great Dividing Trail beside the Spargo Creek.

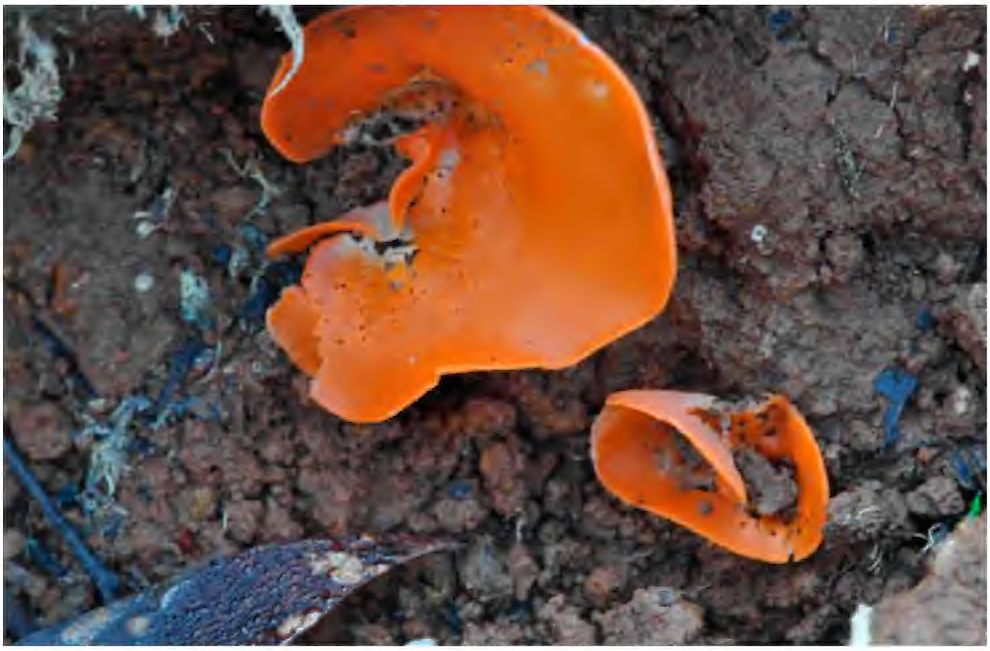
Spargo Creek near the Great Dividing Trail

On our drive through the forest, the large number of fallen trees had been evident. Many of them probably resulted from the extreme winds experienced during June and October 2021. This made me remember Ron Hately's book *The Victorian Bush – its' original and natural condition*. In chapter 10 under the sub heading Tornadoes in Victoria, Ron researched and quoted many historical accounts of such events and other big storms and the impact on forests over the mere 200 years that we have written records for. He concludes that extreme [wind] events like those described in this chapter have occurred before and will probably occur again. He goes on to say that "This must be recognized if we are to understand ecological processes in Victoria's forests and woodlands ….".

Why do I mention this? Well, it ties in nicely with last month's talk by Les on the importance of fungi in recycling plant material to release nutrients. The vast array of fungi, invertebrates and other biota occupy this essential role demonstrated by what they can do eventually to the coarse woody debris lying on the forest floor. There couldn't have been a better way for Field Naturalists to visualise and appreciate the diversity, beauty and importance of the fungi achieving this, as we were guided by Les, walking through the cool and damp understory of the Wombat Forest.

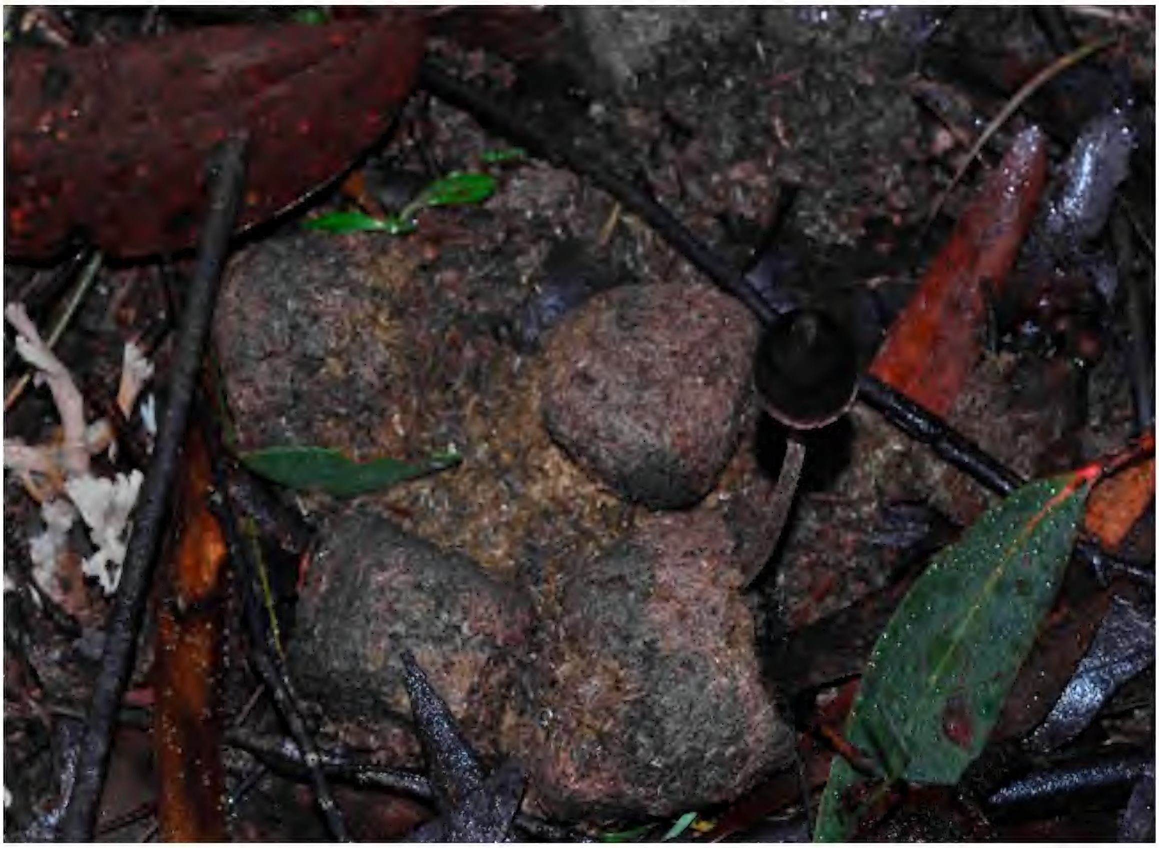
The Cairns Rd destination started well with some beautiful examples amongst the many fallen trees on the west road verge where we parked. Les told me that the highlight of the foray for him was seeing four different species of Waxcaps within a few metres of each other. The Waxcaps were the yellow - *Gliophorus chromolimonea*, the mauve - *Porporlomopsis lewelliniae*, the white - *Humidicutis mavis*, and the orange-red - *Hygrocybe polychroma*. These were located near where we started our observations and where we parked our cars. *Porporlomopsis lewelliniae*, a larger wax cap stands out with its superb lilac cap which splits as it expands and its thick stipe (see Carol Hall's [CH] photo pg. 16 in July BN). A fungus growing here on bare soil was identified as a member of the Ascomycota, that small group of fungi that includes cups, discs, and pins - the Orange Peel Fungus, *Aleuria aurantia*.

Wombat hole near Spargo Creek



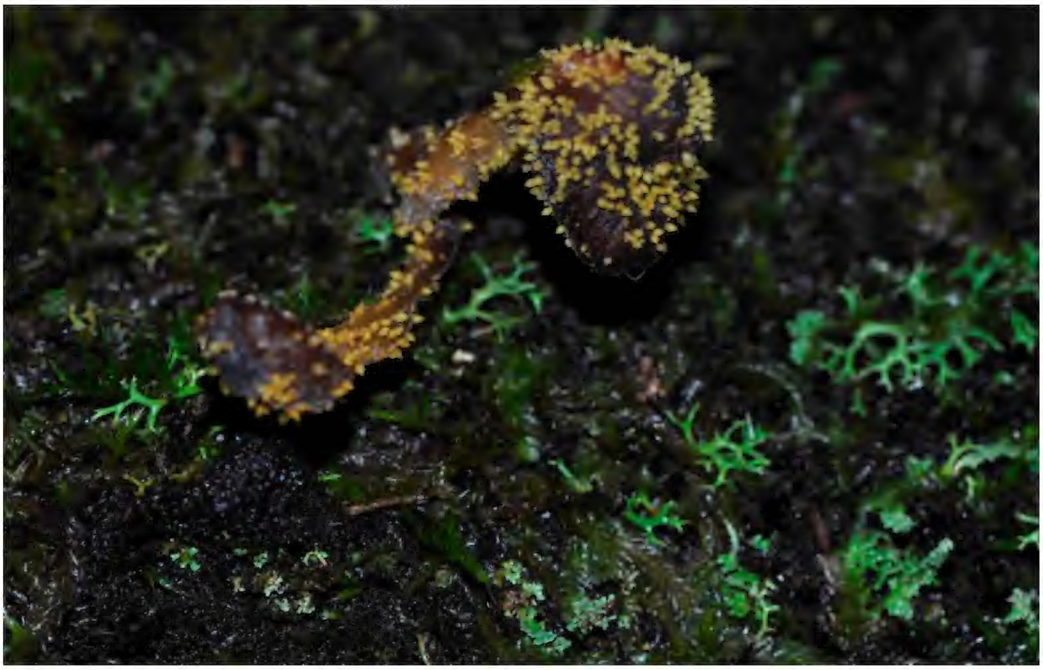
Aleuria aurantia Orange Peel Fungus

We followed the Great Dividing Trail which had been cleared of fallen trees and limbs, diving off the path regularly to find many fungal treasures awaiting our keen observers and photographers. A pile of rotting wombat dung on the track unexpectedly excited us as it was supporting the growth of the Dung Bell Mottlebell (*Panaeolus rickenii)*, below.



Panaeolus rickenii Dung Bell Mottlegill

Reaching a point where Spargo Creek comes close to the track we descended to the creek with its ferny fringes and beside it was a wombat burrow. (See photo p14.). On a fallen log nearby Les showed us a parasitic fungus *Neobarya agaricola* growing on *Galerina hypnorum.* This species of *Galerina*, a gilled fungus, small, soft fleshed, yellow brown with a striate cap and a slender pale brown fragile stipe, looked like it had been afflicted with a nasty crop of small yellow warts which covered its surfaces (below).

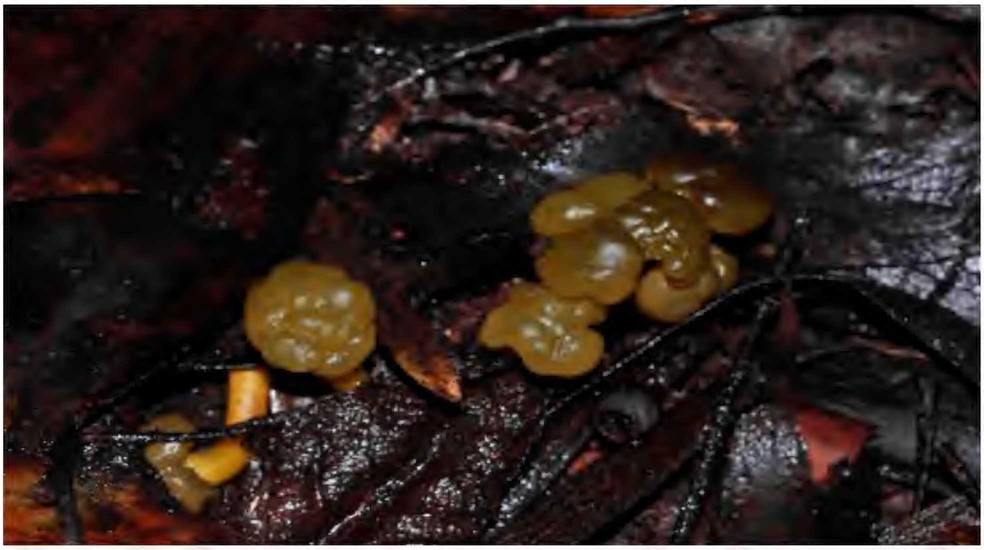


Neobarya agaricicola growing on *Galerina hypnorum*
(fungus growing on a fungus)

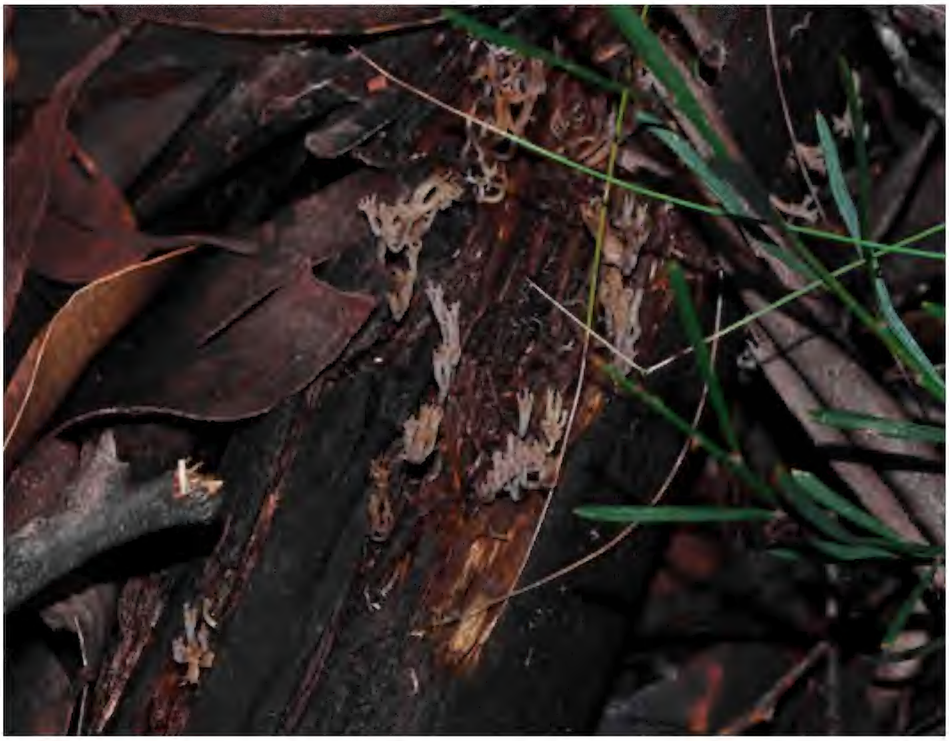
Growing in leaf litter nearby were Jelly Babies, *Leotia lubrica* with their glistening surface and slippery stipes, hence the name. (See photo p.17). Also in this area was what Carol called the Hedgehog fungus *Hydnum aff repandum* (photo CH pg. 16, July BN) and Purple Jelly drops, *Ascoryne sacoides* (photo CH pg. 15 July BN). After a very successful morning foray our convoy drove back to the Moorabool Reservoir gardens to be joined by several more members for lunch thus bringing the number of our members to 12 for the afternoon session at Slaters Road Mollongghip.

The afternoon foray revealed a good selection of *Cortinarius* species including the Green Skinhead, *Cortinarius austrovenetus* (photo CH pg. 15 July BN), the Emperor Cortinar, *Cortinarius archeri* (photo LH pg. 11, July BN but from another location), the wood loving rust gill fungus *Gynophyllus allantopsis* and the gregarious spotted 'fibre head' with its cap surface covered in fibrils, *Inocybe austrofibrillosa* (as the meaning of the name suggests) (photo CH pg. 17, July BN).

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the afternoon were the numerous and spectacularly beautiful coral fungi including Salmon Fairy Clubs, *Ramaria capitata ochraceo-salmonicolor,* the Smokey Ramaria, *Ramaria versatilis* (photo CH pg. 14, July BN) and the delicate (and according to Les) the peppery flavoured *Artomyces austropiperatus*, again reflected in its name (See photo below).
As the afternoon light faded, we went on our various ways very grateful to Les for leading us on such an interesting and informative fungal foray, in what we hope will soon become the Wombat Lerderderg National Park



Leotia lubrica Jelly Babies



Artomyces austropiperatus Peppery Coral

A list of the fungi observed and photographed on the field trip to Spargo Creek and Mollongghip
Sunday 19 June 2022 - FNCB

Identification of species and excursion led by Les Hanrahan

Scientific name	Common name	Location	Notes	Reference
?	Agaric	Gillies St Fed Uni		
Part 1 Spargo Creek - Cairns Road [in the order observed]				
Aleuria aurantia	Orange Peel fungus	Cairns Rd verge		Bendigo pg105
Mycena sp.		Cairns Rd verge		
Mycena (?)		Cairns Rd verge		
?	Slime mould? (No ID)	Cairns Rd verge	on bark	
Lactarius eucalypti		Cairns Rd verge	milk from decurrent gills	Bendigo pg44
Rhodocollybia butyracea	Buttery Collybia	Cairns Rd verge		Bendigo pg64
Hygrocybe sp.	Waxcap	Cairns Rd verge	orange red cap	
Clavulinopsis sulcata	Flame fungus	Cairns Rd verge		GG pg 163
Porpolomopsis lewellinae	Waxcap	Cairns Rd verge	mauve splitting cap	GG pg91
Gliophorus chromolimoneus	Waxcap	Cairns Rd verge	yellow cap	iNaturalist
Humidicutis mavis	Waxcap	Cairns Rd verge	white cap	GG pg92
Leotia lubrica	Jelly Babies	Cairns Rd verge		McC pg113
Omphalina chromacea	Yellow Belly Button	Cairns Rd GDT		McC pg56
Mycena interrupta	Blue Pixie Parasol	Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg119
Mycena subgalericulata		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg 54
?	Lichen?	Cairns Rd GDT	lichen?	
Cortinarius erythraeus	Sticky Red Cortinar	Cairns Rd GDT		McC pg16
Tremella fuciformis	Jelly Fungus	Cairns Rd GDT	on bark, gelatinous	BF pg294

Postia pelliculosa	Furry Punk	Cairns Rd GDT		McC pg 79
Mycena cystidiosa	Tall Mycena	Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg 118
Calocera sinensis	Pretty Horns	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg99
Clavulinopsis amoena	Yellow Club Coral fungus	Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg162
Panaeolus rickenii	Dung Bell Mottlegill	Cairns Rd GDT	On wombat dung	McC pg38
Ramaria filicicola	Slender Coral	Cairns Rd GDT	Coral with forked tips	Bendigo pg75
Crepidotus sp.	Oysterlings	Cairns Rd GDT		
Phaeohelotium baileyanum		Cairns Rd GDT	Yellow discs	Bendigo pg111
Mycena vinacea		Cairns Rd GDT	on litter	McC pg54
Leotia lubrica	Jelly Babies	Cairns Rd GDT	wet litter	McC pg113
Lycoperdon perlatum	Puff Ball	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg77
Cortinarius?		Cairns Rd GDT		
?	Agaric?	Cairns Rd GDT		
Neobarya agaricicola growing on Galerina hypnorum		Cairns Rd GDT	Fungus on Fungus Parasitic, yellow warts	GG pg 230/81
Mycena interrupta	Blue Pixie Parasol	Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg119
Bisporella citrina	Lemon disco	Cairns Rd GDT	clustered on wood	Bendigo pg106
Agaricus sp.	Agaric	Cairns Rd GDT		
Hydnum aff repandum		Cairns Rd GDT	spines underside cap	Bendigo pg84
Ascocoryne sarcoidosis	Purple Jelly drops	Cairns Rd GDT		McC pg111
Stereum illudens	Purple stereum	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg93
Galerina hypnorum	Moss Galerina	Cairns Rd GDT	in moss (a complex)	Bendigo pg37
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur tufts	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg 41
Clavaria zollingeri		Cairns Rd GDT	Purplish multi-stemmed	GG pg 160
?		Cairns Rd GDT		

Additional species observed by Les H. at Spargo Creek
(19 June 2022, alphabetical order)

Artomyces colensoi		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg73
Byssomerulius corium		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg96
Crepidotus crocophyllus.		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg32
Cortinarius abnormis		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg24
Cortinarius austroviolaceus		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg27
Cortinarius austroalbidus		Cairns Rd GDT	curry odour	Bendigo pg26
Entoloma readiae		Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg75
Heterotextus peziziformis	Jelly Bells	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg100
Hypholoma brunneum	Brown Tuft	Cairns Rd GDT		McC pg37
Laccaria sp.		Cairns Rd GDT		
Marasmius alveolaris		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg51
Mycena clarkeana		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg53
Mycena marangania		Cairns Rd GDT		GG pg121
Omphalotus nidiformis	Ghost Fungus	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg56
Pholiota communis	Common Philiota	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg59
Psilocybe subaeriginosa	Magic Mushroom	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg63
Scleroderma cepa	Earth Ball	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg80
Singerocybe clitocyboides	Funnel Cap	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg66
Trametes versicolor	Turkey Tails	Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg92
Tricholoma virgatum		Cairns Rd GDT		Bendigo pg68

FNCB iNaturalist Project

For those who could not attend recent field trips, Vireya has written journal posts which include links to the observations made during each of our last two field trips. You can access the journal here:
https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fncb-inaturalist/journal
If you have photos from these trips still to upload, it is not too late.
They will be automatically added to the summary link once uploaded.
Vireya intends similar summary posts for future field trips, so keep your eye on the journal.

Part 2 Mollongghip, Slaters Road [in the order observed]

Cortinarius austrovenetus	Green Skinhead	Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg27
Russula persanuinea		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg66
Gymnopilus allantopsus		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg37
Russula lenkunya		Slaters Rd		GG pg142
Phellodon niger		Slaters Rd	small black teeth under	GG pg209
Russula clelandii		Slaters Rd	pink stem	GG pg141
Ramaria loritham-nus	Yellow Coral	Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg 76
?		Slaters Rd	white gills	
Ramaria capitata ochraceo-salmonicolor	Salmon Fairy Clubs	Slaters Rd	3 pointed crown	McC pg87
?	Slime mould	Slaters Rd	on dead eucalypt leaf	
Pholiota communis		Slaters Rd		BF pg157
Ramaria veratilis	Smokey Ramaria	Slaters Rd	grey purple	McC pg88
Cortinarius sinapicolor	Slimy Yellow Cortinar	Slaters Rd		McC pg17
Cortinarius archeri	Emperor Cortinar	Slaters Rd	old speci-men	McC pg15
Cortinarius persplendidus		Slaters Rd	Rusty, yellow mycelium	Bendigo pg30
Entoloma sp.		Slaters Rd	fluffy white at base	
Tricholoma eucalypticum		Slaters Rd	wavy edge to gills	Bendigo pg67
Inocybe austrofibrillosa		Slaters Rd	Cap with white fibrils	Bendigo pg 41
Cortinarius sp.	'lilac and cream'	Slaters Rd	lilac coloured gills	Bendigo pg29
Tricholoma sp.?		Slaters Rd		
Cortinarius canarii		Slaters Rd		GG pg 59
Lepiota sp.		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg45

Inocybe austrofibrillosa		Slaters Rd	Cap with white fibrils	Bendigo pg 41
Cortinarius rotundisporus		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg30
Artomyces austropiperatus		Slaters Rd	peppery flavour. On wood	GG pg160
Cortinarius archeri	Emperor Cortinar	Slaters Rd		BF pg44
Rigidoporus laetus	Polypore	Slaters Rd	fluid droplets	Bendigo pg91
Austropaxillus infundibuliformis	Funnel Pax	Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg18

Additional species observed by Les H. at Mollongghip
(19 June 2022, alphabetical order)

Cortinarius austrocinnibarinus		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg26
Galerina allantopus		Slaters Rd		
Pholiota sqarrosipes		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg59
Ramaria capitata var. capitata	Pale Caulflower Coral	Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg75
Ramaria filicicola	Slender Coral	Slaters Rd		GG pg165
Russula purpureoflava		Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg66
Trametes coccinea	Scarlet Bracket	Slaters Rd		Bendigo pg92

Key to References

BF - A Field Guide to Australian Fungi. Bruce Fuhrer, Bloomings Books 2005

Bendigo - Fungi of the Bendigo Region. Joy Cluster and Ray Wallace 2018 (First Edition)

GG - A field guide to Tasmanian Fungi. Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky 2nd edition 2016 TasFNC

McC - Australian Fungi Illustrated. Ian McCann 2003 McDown Productions

iNaturalist - Use "Explore" and search there for the species.

Calendar of Activities for the remainder of 2022

Date	Speaker/Leader	Topic/Venue
August 5th	Emily Noble Club member	Orchids of the Ballarat region
August 7th	Emily Noble Club member	Dereel and Enfield SP orchid hunt
September 2nd	Jeff Rootes Bunanyung Landscape Alliance	Little Creeks Do Matter- creeks south and east of Ballarat
September 4th	Jeff Rootes BLA	Creeks south and east of Ballarat
Sep. 30 – Oct. 2	SEANA Spring Camp - Peninsula FNC	Mornington Peninsula
October 7th	Nina Hinko-Najera, Uni of Melbourne's School of Forestry and Ecosystem Sciences, Creswick.	Carbon sequestration in Creswick forests.
October 9th	Emily Noble Club member	Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary
November 4th	Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture: Honorary Fellow, John Delpratt, Uni of Melbourne	VVP Grassland restoration
November 6th	Neville Oddie	Wildflower paddock, "Chepstowe"
December 2nd	Member's Images	"Family album"
December 4th 1.30 to 7 pm	Bill & Kathy Elder Club members	Christmas break-up: Trust for Nature properties in Dereel and Scarsdale

Excerpts from minutes of Club Meeting
Held June 3, 2022 via Zoom

20 members present. Apologies received from: A. Grant, J. Heron and C. Menzies.
Motion: that the Apologies be accepted.
Moved: C. Hall **Seconded:** P. Dalman **Carried**

Speaker: Les Hanrahan presented a fascinating talk on "(Macro) Fungi" with slides of around 60 different species, and an introduction to fungi and their role in natural systems.

Business arising from previous meeting:
Discussed the establishment of a sub-committee to progress the revision and update of "Discovering Ballarat's Bushland". Carol Hall is happy to be convener of the subcommittee, joined by John Gregurke, Andy, John P, Val, Elspeth, Claire and Emily Noble agreed to participate. Please contact Carol via email if you would like to join the sub-committee. Some of the things to be revised/ researched: the cost of printing an A5 booklet (1,000 copies?), funding sources, pricing, map in the centrefold, the sites featured (add or subtract any sites?), site access, facilities, sources of information, e-book version, photos. Kathy offered to get a quote from Waller & Chester.

In light of the discussion around holding Club meetings via Zoom or in person at the May club meeting, our Committee discussed the options again, and whilst acknowledging that meeting in person was more sociable and facilitated better interactions between members, it also came with greater risks in the midst of an ongoing pandemic that were still worth avoiding. Additionally, most of our speakers scheduled for the winter months prefer to speak via Zoom, and our key IT people aren't prepared to attend indoor gatherings whilst COVID infection numbers stay high, so we will continue to meet via Zoom until Sept, at which time the options will be re-assessed.

FNCB has again registered to participate in the Great Southern BioBlitz. It will be held from October 28-31, 2022. More information will be sent out shortly.
Vireya has set up a project for Ballarat which will automatically collate all records uploaded from within the designated region, so you don't need to join it. Nevertheless, joining it will ensure that you are kept up-to-date with any notices about the BioBitz.
Vireya is the right person to be managing our Club's participation in this BioBlitz because she uploads at least one record to iNaturalist every day. She has currently recorded 431 species on her Lal Lal property across 1,954 records!

Treasurer's Report
Opening balance: $9,152.85
Income $35.00
Expenses: $0.00
Closing balance: $ 9,187.85
Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and that invoices be approved for payment.
Moved: K. Elder **Seconded:** A. Arnold **Carried.**

Show & Tell/ Field Reports

A Brown (Ewing's) Tree Frog, *Litoria ewingii* was captured on video on Sheree's window, catching and eating a flying insect, whilst a Common Eastern Froglet called in the background. She has been learning about her local frogs thanks to the Frog ID App and Museum Victoria's responses to the recordings she has been submitting.

Claire and Peter visited Dunkeld a week ago, dropping in to Green Swamp where they saw 25+ brolga at lunch-time. A few days later, they dropped in again and found none at 11am. They also spotted a Wedge-tailed Eagle feeding on a dead joey in Victoria Valley, thirteen emus in a paddock close to Dunkeld School and eight in another paddock. They also went to Dunkeld Arboretum, which they noted is being well looked-after by the local community and has a lot of birdlife despite few native planted species.

John P saw a Monitor lizard and a glorious *Passiflora* (Passionfruit) in full fruit in Townsville.

Errata

I need to correct two items from last month's issue of The Ballarat Naturalist which may have misled readers.
1. Photo credits:
a) Images of *Hygrocybe flavescens, Tremella fuciformis and Cortinarius archeri* on pages 9, 10 and 11 respectively.
These accompanied the talk given by Les Hanrahan at the July meeting and were all provided by Les.
b) The following images were provided by Carol Hall:
Les in the field, and Slime Mould on p. 8 and all images on pp.14 through to 17

2. The date of the June excursion was Sunday 19th June, not 17th as stated on p.14.

Ed.

Excerpts from Club Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2022 held via Zoom

Opening and Apologies
Attendance: Acting President Kathy Elder welcomed 18 members and one visitor to the meeting, acknowledging the traditional owners of the lands from which we were tuning-in.
Apologies: M. Rich and V. Hocking.
Motion: that the Apologies be accepted.
Moved: F. Hanrahan **Seconded:** C. Dalman **Carried.**

Guest Speaker: Chris Timewell from BirdLife Australia presented a wonderful overview of the varied "Projects of BirdLife Australia's Woodland Birds Team". Emily volunteered to write up Chris's presentation.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Motion: that the Minutes of the previous Meeting (June 3, 2022) be accepted as a true and accurate record.
Moved: C. Hall **Seconded:** J. Petheram **Carried.**

Business Arising from Correspondence:
Consider new Membership application from Elva Bird for acceptance into the FNCB.
Motion: That Elva Bird be accepted into membership of the FNCB.
Moved: A. Arnold **Seconded:** J. Petheram **Carried.**

Reports:
Treasurer's Report
Opening balance: $9,187.85
Income $357.70
Expenses: $220.75
Closing balance: $9,324.80
FNCB's Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria membership is due for renewal for $40, along with the Club's public liability insurance through RHSV for $160.

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, the Club's RHSV membership be renewed and that tabled invoices be approved for payment.
Moved: K. Elder **Seconded:** E. Noble **Carried.**

Domain Name for the Club: Graeme reported that we have registered www.fncb.org.au which for now, defaults to our current Club's website. It gives us scope to add pages/ services to our website and sort out a web page host that can circumvent the unsolicited ads that we currently get on our site.

General Business

Calendar of Activities update: speakers and field trips are now confirmed for 2022.

Show & Tell/ Field Reports

Emily N. found a new colony of Helmet orchids and two dense colonies of Gnat-orchids (yet to flower) at Mt Bute Scenic Reserve, and many bright red, matt-capped and gilled fungi that she thinks are *Dermocybe splendida* (which Les pointed out are now Cortinarius) on her block in Scarsdale, the first time she has recorded them there. Emily also noted that the white-morph Grey Goshawks are very active and vocal along the Springdallah Creek-line at the moment as they prepare for nesting season at Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary.

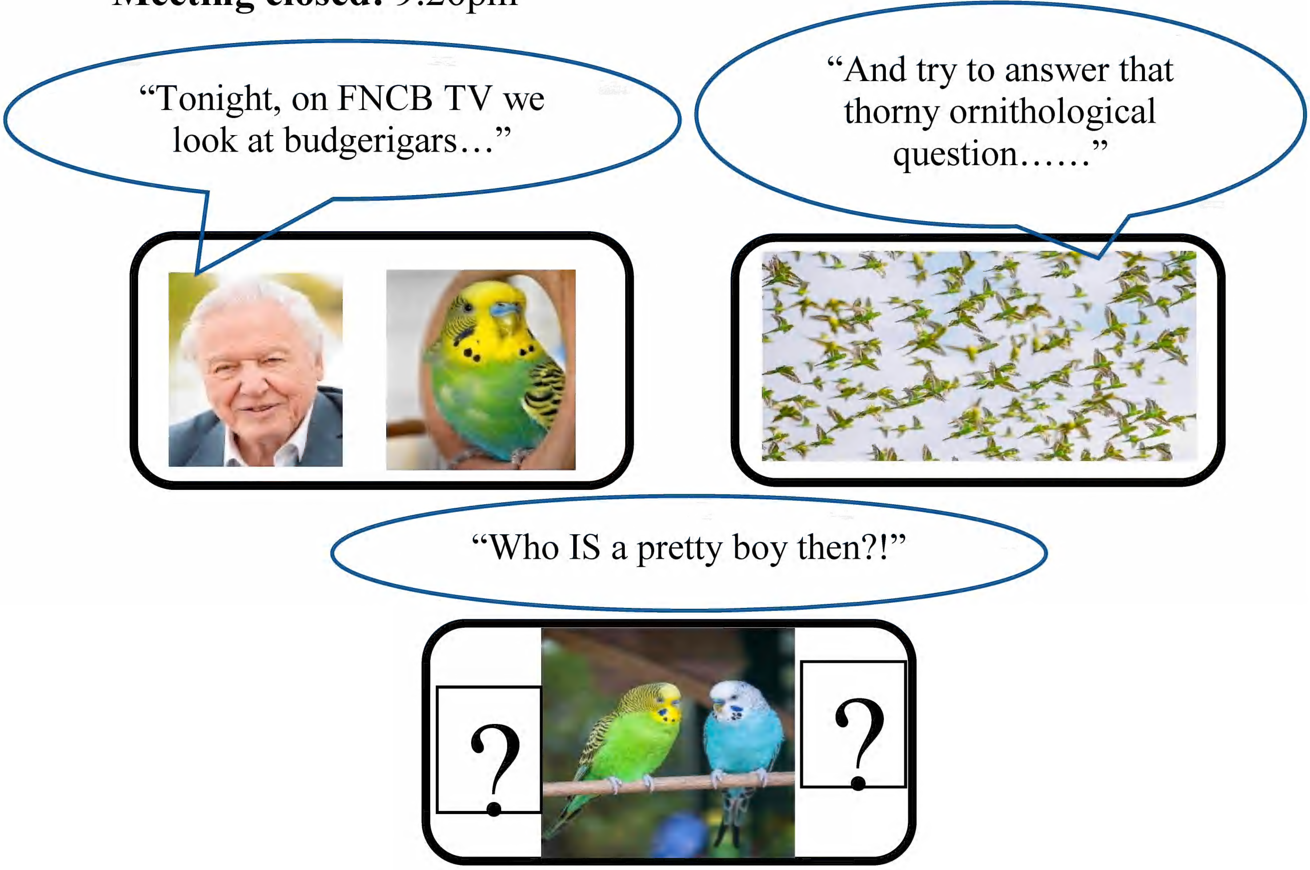
Judith reported that she has found hundreds of ladybirds in the dome at the Ballarat Observatory this June, compared to the usual dozen or so.

Bill E. saw a bird scooting along the ground from his window at Scarsdale and it was clear from the white facial markings in his photo that it was a Spotted Quail-thrush, his first sighting of this species at his property.

Carol H. has been making bookmarks decorated with her beautiful fungi photos.

Peter D. spotted a dead (road-killed) Rakali near Pleasant St Primary School.

Meeting closed: 9.26pm


"Tonight, on FNCB TV we look at budgerigars…"
"And try to answer that thorny ornithological question……"
"Who IS a pretty boy then?!"
?
?

Excursions and Meetings coming up

August
Friday 5th: Club Secretary and native orchid enthusiast, Emily Noble will present on Orchids of Ballarat (on Zoom), followed on **Sunday 7th** by a winter orchid-hunting field trip around Enfield Forest and Dereel starting at 10am from the Fed Uni carpark.
BYO lunch, suitable clothing, boots, etc. We expect to finish around 4.00pm.

September
Friday 2nd: Jeff Rootes from the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance will present via Zoom. His topic is “Little Creeks Do Matter- creeks south and east of Ballarat”
On **Sunday 4th**, Jeff will take interested members on an excursion to explore these Little Creeks.

On the Horizon…
October meeting Nina Hinko-Najera, Uni of Melbourne’s School of Forestry and Ecosystem Sciences, Creswick. Nina will talk about “Carbon sequestration in Creswick forests”.

October excursion is to Clarkesdale Bird Sanctuary, Linton to be led by Emily Noble.

Committee

President	Margaret Rich
Secretary	Emily Noble
Treasurer	Kathy Elder
Committee	Andy Arnold
	Bill Elder
	Val Hocking
	Graeme Lunt
	John Petheram

Correspondence: PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, 3350

Email: Secretary:-	Emily Noble
Editor:	Bill Elder
Treasurer	Kathy Elder

Website: www.fncb.org.au

Club email: ballaratfnc@gmail.com
Meetings - may continue to be held via Zoom.
Members will be kept informed of arrangements each month.

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